

Hazelnut Log

Hazelnut Industry e-Newsletter



Volume 54
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Nursery Stock Teleconference

29 APRIL 2020

Information from the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment:

We would like to discuss a project being run by the department that will review the current import conditions for some key groups of nursery stock. The groups we are reviewing are those required to undergo a period of post entry quarantine in a government facility. For more information on the project and the list of plant groups, please see the attached fact sheet.

We would like to invite you to participate in a teleconference to discuss the project and seek your input to develop a prioritisation list. We are proposing to hold the teleconference on:

29 April 2020 at 2:00 - 4:00pm AEST
(1:30 - 3:30pm ACST,
12:00 - 2:00pm AWST)

We will send through a calendar invite in due course.

Prior to the teleconference, we are requesting any information you have that will help inform our prioritisation process, including:

- how often each industry thinks their commodity should be reviewed
- how each industry would like to be consulted for these reviews.

We would like to share the responses we receive to the above questions with other industries; however, we understand if you prefer your information to remain confidential. When you respond, if you would prefer your responses to remain confidential, then please let us know.

Our own analysis indicates that for many plants, the number of quarantine pests remains fairly stable, so in these cases a review every three years might be appropriate.



For other plants there are new viruses being discovered overseas, therefore reviews may be needed more frequently.

Could you please send any of the above information to:

plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au

by COB 9 April 2020. Your information will help inform our prioritisation process, which we will discuss further at the teleconference. Additionally, if the date and time do not work for you, please let us know.

Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to receiving your input and having you join us for the teleconference.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

FOR SALE - 6.4 ha alluvial river flat on town boundary, established hazelnut orchard - 2800 trees irrigated, 17 Meg Water Licence. 2750sq m fenced compound with irrigation and high fence.

Steel frame dwelling, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open plan living area, north facing; verandah 3 sides.

Highway plus main road frontages; all town services plus solar back up.

Steel Frame Dutch barn, comprising cleanroom, office, workshop and mezzanine upstairs drying/storage area.

Price - \$830,000.

**Enquiries David Goldring, 0426 251 981
The Property Shop, Mudgee.**

Hazelnut Growers of Australia Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S Pen:

Hi All.

Welcome to the April Newsletter. What an amazing few months we have had. First, drought, then bushfires, followed by floods, and we finish up with the Coronavirus and it is only April! Taken together they are going to provide challenges for us for the rest of the year and into future years.

It should be mentioned at the outset that the 2020 Conference is going to be particularly important this year as it can provide us as growers (i.e., hazelnuts, chestnuts and walnuts) with some direction as to what we need to do and where we need to go in order to make the most of our opportunities.

The 2020 Conference

Trevor, as usual, has been busy planning for this year's conference. It is our third Tri-Nut Conference (Chestnuts, Hazelnuts and Walnuts) and will be from the 11 to 13 September 2020 in Tumburumba/Batlow, New South Wales, a region which was badly hit by the bushfires. Trevor is estimating that at least 150 delegates will be attending, so you need to both diarise the date and book early.

Trevor is working on this year's program now and I am sure it will prove to be good value for money. It will bring you up to date with what has been happening in our industry and what the future holds, but also what chestnuts and walnuts are doing. Given the current state of the Australian, and world, economies it is important that we plan for the future now and that we have contingencies in place to enable us an industry to weather what appears to be an economic storm ahead.

While planning is still going ahead in the background the decision on whether to continue or postpone will be made closer to the event. Coronavirus has thrown everything into a high level of the unknown.

Benchmarking Exercise

As you might be aware, the Hazelnut Industry is undertaking a Benchmarking Study under the leadership of Anne Briggs from Grow Food & Agribusiness. NSW DPI & Agrifutures Australia has now signed off on the final survey questionnaire and collecting the 2019 harvest data is now underway. Delegates at the 2019 Conference in Canberra who indicated a willingness to participate will be first to do so. However, if there are others who couldn't make it to Canberra but are willing to participate, they can contact Anne on 0411 035 876 or anne@growagribusiness.com.au. All information Anne gathers is treated as confidential,

Participation is important, not only because you will be able to compare your business to the industry averages but it will provide us with a wealth of data to our industry to drive other initiatives.



Image by Andreas Breittling from Pixabay

Churchill Fellowship Visitor Tom Cannon from the UK



Image by Yvanti Sultke from Pixabay

Tom was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study the Hazelnut Industry in 2019. While Tom is a UK citizen, which we shall not hold against him as we did win the Ashes, he does have a close connection with Australia as his grandfather was born and farmed in Gunns Plains, Tasmania. He said they had a few hazelnut trees, but it was mainly a dairy operation.

Tom's project was in *Rural living: strengthening countryside communities* category that examines the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and in Tom's case focuses on Kentish hazelnut production (or 'cobnuts') in the UK. Cobnuts have played an important role in the English rural economy and environment but like so many things, the traditional orchards have been overtaken by time and the overall purpose of Tom's project was to try and ensure the Kentish cobnut has a future.

Tom's research trip had so far has taken him to Turkey, China (pre-coronavirus), the US and now to Australia and New Zealand. The purpose of visiting these countries has been to try and gain a clear picture of market and policy environments, farming practices and approaches, hazelnut diversification and value added approaches, and local initiatives.

Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic caused major problems for Tom. Having got into Australia hours before the requirement to self-isolate Tom was able to spend a few days in Sydney. The New Zealand part of the trip was cancelled due to the Government closing their borders.

While Tom was able to visit a few growers in NSW and Victoria much of the trip had to be postponed. Tom could not get to Tasmania because they also restricted entry.

In the end Tom was able to get a flight home to the UK.

Thanks to all of you who put the time and effort to be a part of Tom's visit. Growers across NSW, Victoria and Tasmania were most supportive.

Industry will endeavour to assist in getting Tom back so that he can undertake his full itinerary once the pandemic has passed.

Research Success

As most of you will be aware by now, Trevor was successful with his Agrifutures Australia project funding application. I said on the announcement of his success that this was an important breakthrough for us an Association and he must be congratulated. What the success of getting this grant means for the future is that it gives us credibility as a grower body and to have 'runs on the board' which will make it easier to be successful with other applications in the future.

Andy Gibson, President of the HGA



Your favourite hazelnut chocolate may be the next victim of climate change

Turkey's Black Sea coast produces 70 percent of the world's hazelnut crop. But growing instances of unseasonal storms and steadily rising temperatures are beginning to destroy tens of thousands of tons of harvested hazelnuts, underscoring a major climate change-induced challenge that's threatening an industry estimated to be worth \$9.5 billion by 2026.

That's bad news for global confectionery brands such as Ferrero (which owns Nutella), Lindt and M&M's that

depend on Turkey's hazelnuts for chocolate products, and for the millions of consumers who love the flavour.

The imminent crisis is forcing some companies to adapt, either by embracing more ecologically friendly practices or by diversifying the source of the hazelnuts to depend less on Turkey. But will they manage to do so fast enough?

Hazelnut Permits

CURRENT PERMITS

Table 1: List of all current permits:

Permit ID	Description	Date Issued	Expiry Date	Permit holder
PER13642	Chlorpyrifos & maldison / tree nuts / Australian plague locust	01-Sep-12	30-Jun-25	ANIC / HIAL
PER84301	Paraquat, diquat & simazine / hazelnuts / weed and sucker control	31-May-17	30-Apr-22	HGA / AgAware
PER84312	Copper & potassium bicarbonate / hazelnuts / Hazelnut blight and Powdery mildew	28-Jun-17	31-May-22	HGA / AgAware
PER84315	D-C-Tron Plus (petroleum oil) / Plum scale & Bacillus thuringiensis / various lepidoptera pests / hazelnuts	1-Nov-17	31-Oct-22	HGA / AgAware
PER85482	Karate Zeon (lambda-cyhalothrin) / Hazelnuts orchard and nursery / Heliothis	01-Dec-17	31-Aug-24	Agri Australis / AgAware
PER87506	Ridomil Gold Plus (metalaxyl-M + copper hydroxide) / hazelnuts (nursery & orchard) / Phytophthora trunk canker and root rot	14-Jun-19	30-Jun-24	Agri Australis / AgAware
PER87516	Thiovet Jet (sulphur) / Hazelnuts / Powdery mildew, Twospotted mite, hazelnut mite, big bud mite	17-May-19	31-May-22	Agri Australis / AgAware
PER87687	Sharpen (saflufenacil) / Hazelnuts / various weeds	2-Oct-19	31-Oct-22	Agri Australis / AgAware
PER87744	Confidor (imidacloprid) / Hazelnuts / Green peach aphid & Black peach aphid	12-Aug-19	31-Aug-24	Agri Australis / AgAware

NOTE: Some permits have restrictions on their use. Please check details on each permit before using.

Update: April 2020



Image by Henryk Niestroj from Pixabay

Australia joins international plant health research network

The future of plant health in Australia is looking brighter with a new opportunity for international collaboration in research on pests and diseases that are common threats.

Australia's Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative (PBRI), has just signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Phytosanitary Research and Coordination network (Euphresco).

Euphresco is a network of organisations that fund research projects and coordinate national research in plant health. By helping to coordinate transnational and collaborative research this network helps optimise limited research resources and avoids duplication.

PBRI coordinates and supports plant biosecurity research in Australia through a partnership between Australia's plant Research and Development Corporations, Plant Health Australia and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

PBRI Chairman Greg Fraser said Plant Health Australia has been developing a relationship with Euphresco since 2017, including collaborating in the International Plant Sentinel Network.

"PBRI believes that collaboration is essential as a lot of the pests that we deal with are global pests, so we need to be operating in more of a global environment.

Program Director Dr Jo Luck said the signing of this MOU with Euphresco signals the sharing of knowledge between countries on common threats to agriculture and native environments plus it creates efficiencies in research investment.

"The benefit of working with Euphresco is preventing the fragmentation of research and building stronger research efforts to benefit industry," Dr Luck said.

Euphresco Coordinator Baldissera Giovani said he is looking forward to more fruitful discussions and to building stronger links with the research community and plant health stakeholders in Australia.

He explained that Euphresco projects start as ideas, based on national priorities and are proposed by each Euphresco member. Then, through discussions, exchange and networking, the suggestions become projects.

"Following discussions on the research topics proposed in 2019, collaborations have now been secured between organisations in thirty-five countries worldwide and fourteen research projects will start in coming months," Mr Giovani said.

The MOU between the PBRI and Euphresco has been signed as part of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020, promoting greater collaboration for international efforts in plant health.

Contact:

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Stinkbug invasion in Turkey threatens world hazelnut supplies

Scientists race to halt spread of pungent insect species after it sweeps eight cities



Photograph: Christopher Lewis/Alamy

Temperatures in the coming months will also play a key role in the health of this year's hazelnut stocks.

The world's hazelnut supplies could be threatened by a stinkbug that has recently invaded Turkey, scientists have warned.

The brown marmorated stinkbug, which is native to north-east Asia, has been spreading across the world in shipping containers, breeding freely thanks to warmer temperatures and a lack of natural predators.

The stinkbug - named for the pungent chemicals it produces as a form of defence - was seen in Turkey for the first time in 2017, after wreaking havoc in neighbouring Georgia. Since then, the insect has spread through at least eight Turkish cities, mostly across the Black Sea region, where about 70% of the world's hazelnut supply originates.

If the stinkbug's spread cannot be contained, about 30% of hazelnuts could be damaged, warned Prof. Celal Tuncer from Ondokuz Mayıs University's plant protection department. This corresponds to about a fifth of the world's supply.

This dependence on Turkish hazelnuts has prompted the industry as well as scientists to call for rapid action against the stinkbug.

At a conference in January, discussions focused on fighting the invasion through the dissemination of a natural enemy: *Trissolcus japonicus*, commonly known as the samurai wasp. The method of using pests' natural enemies is known as biological control, and is considered an eco-friendly alternative to the use of insecticides.

Samurai wasps, tiny creatures of two millimetres, lay their larvae inside the stinkbugs' eggs, which are then destroyed.

One potential problem with this approach is that it usually requires more time than Turkey's hazelnuts appear to have. Regulations require extensive research before releasing a biocontrol agent in order to ensure that it is not harmful to the local ecosystem.

In the US, for instance, the bureaucratic procedures of releasing the samurai wasp took so long that eventually the species found its way there naturally.

Tuncer said Turkey should seek ways to expedite the process by relying on existing research elsewhere, as a considerable amount of preliminary research has already been completed in Europe.

Ilyas Edip Sevinç, the head of the Black Sea Region Hazelnut and Hazelnut Products Exporters' Association, said taking time to thoroughly analyse the risks of samurai wasps would be ill-advised as the stinkbug was already established and posed such a threat.

So far, farmers have been relying on insecticides against the stinkbug, but this may prove more difficult as the population increases and spreads across the region.

Temperatures in the coming months will play a crucial role in the health of this year's hazelnut crop. In 2019, chilly weather delayed the stinkbugs' emergence from hibernation, allowing the nuts enough time to grow their protective outer shells. This year, meteorologists have warned of above-average temperatures, meaning the nuts may not be as fortunate.

Turkey's hazelnut exports jump 52%, hit \$1.65B



Turkey, the world's biggest hazelnut supplier, brought in nearly \$1.65 billion in revenues from nut exports between September 2019 and March 2020, a regional trade group confirmed on Thursday.

The Black Sea Hazelnut and Products Exporters' Association data showed that hazelnut exports jumped 52% in the seven months, compared to the same period a year before.

During this season so far which starts in September and ends in August, Turkey's hazelnut exports hit 250,777 tons, surging 32% year-on-year.

The country exports hazelnut mainly to the European Union, which has robust food industries to process the nuts.

Turkey's horticultural exports buck trend

Fruit, vegetable and nut exports all rose in March while many of the country's other exports suffered a sharp decline



Turkey's fruit and vegetable exports have remained strong in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, despite overall exports dropping.

According to a report from the *Daily Sabah*, Turkey's agricultural exports rose 4.5 per cent year-on-year in March, conversely, overall exports declined by 17 per cent.

Data released by the Turkish Exporters' Assembly (TIM) showed fruit and vegetable exports increased by 26.9 per cent compared to last March to reach a total value of US\$162.4m for the month.

The category that experienced the largest growth was hazelnuts. Hazelnut exports more than doubled year-on-year reaching a value of US\$208.8m for March.

When it came to destinations for Turkey's produce, Russia was the leading importer of fruits and vegetables, meanwhile, Italy was the largest importer of hazelnuts.

Ruhsar Pekcan, trade minister of Turkey, said the country had made provisions to reduce the effect of coronavirus on its exporters.

"We say 'continue production and export' with the contactless trading application that will set an example for the world," Pekcan said on Twitter

Disaster aid available for hazelnut, winegrape growers

PORTLAND - Millions of dollars of disaster aid is now available to Oregon hazelnut growers who suffered crop losses in February 2019 as a result of severe snowstorms that damaged up to 12% of mature orchards in the southern Willamette Valley.

Congress approved a \$19.1 billion relief package in the wake of multiple natural disasters across the country, including hurricanes Michael, Florence and Dorian, as well as major floods, tornadoes, heavy snow and wildfires.

Part of the spending bill set aside \$4.5 billion for agriculture, timber and watershed recovery to assist farmers and ranchers. The emergency fund - named the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program-Plus, abbreviated as WHIP+ - contains \$11 million for Oregon hazelnuts.

The USDA Farm Service Agency announced March 16 it has established payment rates for hazelnuts through the program and is accepting applications from eligible producers.

Kent Willett, farm program specialist for the FSA in Portland, said the program is unique in that it provides some compensation for damaged trees in addition to a percentage of the crop value. Payments are limited to \$125,000 per farm.

"We're just now trying to get that out to the public," Willett said.

Nearly all U.S. commercial hazelnuts are grown in Oregon. A report by Pacific Agricultural Survey estimated 3,332 acres of mature hazelnut trees in Lane and Douglas counties were at risk of winter storm damage in 2019, out of 27,603 total mature acres.

Areas around Eugene, Ore., experienced 20-plus inches of snow over three days, causing limbs and branches to snap and, in



Heavy snow in February caused damage to mature hazelnut trees at Garry Rodakowski's farm in Vida, Ore. Congress has approved a federal disaster relief package including \$11 million for hazelnut growers whose crops were impacted by winter storms. - Garry Rodakowski

some cases, entire trees to fall. According to the report, older orchards experienced a much higher level of damage from snow and ice due to their limb shape and structure.

Garry Rodakowski, chairman of the Oregon Hazelnut Commission, was one farmer who saw significant damage at his orchard west of Eugene along the McKenzie River. He said snow blanketed about 60 acres of trees, cutting his production by about 55%.

At an average of 1,500 pounds per acre and prices fetching 83 cents per pound, that adds up to about \$41,085 in lost revenue.

"Plus, all the expenses on top to clean up and everything that went along with that," Rodakowski said. "I still have broken limbs that I can't reach from the ground, or with a pole saw

that I would have to (reach) in a pruning tower."

Though he is not certain how much money he will receive, Rodakowski said the financial relief is a huge deal to growers.

"I've been in the industry for 50 years. This is the first time I've gotten any government funding for disaster relief," Rodakowski said. "I still don't know what I'm going to get, but you're at a point where anything will help."

Juli Jones, grower relations director for the Oregon Hazelnut Industry, said she is notifying growers about the program.

While there is no deadline yet for applications, Jones said growers must schedule an in-person appointment at their county FSA office.

"The applications are being processed as quickly as they can," Jones said. "The sooner, the better on this."

The new program is different from other aid programs such as the Tree Assistance Program or Emergency Conservation Program. Producers who may have applied earlier through TAP or ECP must apply again specifically through WHIP+ to receive payments, Jones said.

"We stress to them that if you think you've applied for it, you haven't," she said.

In addition to hazelnuts, WHIP+ includes \$3 million for Southern Oregon winegrape growers unable to sell their 2018 crop over concerns of smoke taint from the region's wildfires.

A California winery rejected 2,000 tons of winegrapes from Rogue Valley growers just before harvest, worth an estimated \$4 million. Due to the timing, most fruit was left to rot on the vine.

Wildfire smoke can have a negative impact on vineyards, with grapes absorbing volatile guaiacol and methylguaiacol compounds that can lead to smoky, burnt or ashy flavor in wines.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee, was instrumental in getting hazelnut and winegrapes included in the relief package.

Fresh Produce Food Safety Update

FPSC A&NZ today launched a fact sheet on the impact of animals on the risk of foodborne illness in the fresh produce sector. The fact sheet covers the food safety risks associated with both wildlife and intensive animal production. The fact sheet also outlines recommended practices for managing the co-existence of animal and crop production.

The fact sheet was written by researchers from the ARC Training Centre for Food Safety in the Fresh Produce Industry, FPSC Board Member Professor Robyn McConchie from the University of Sydney and Dr Michele Jay-Russell from UC Davis' Western Center for Food Safety.

The fact sheet can be accessed [here](#).

The fact sheet is an addition to the suite of resources available on the FPSC's publications and resources web page. Recent resources published include:

- *Reducing Listeria Contamination from Salad Vegetables* (2019)
- *Foreign Object Contamination of Fresh Produce Fact Sheet* (2019)
- *Guidelines for Fresh Produce Food Safety* (2019)

Please contact us if you have an area of research or grey literature that you would like the FPSC to publish a fact sheet on.

Fresh Produce Safety Centre Australia & New Zealand

